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SOURCE Nova Borba [anti-Tito emigre newspaper].

FOOD PRICES DOWN, BUDGET UP

DUE TO FARM MECHANIZATION -- Nova Borba, No 5, 25 Mar 50; No 6, 8 Apr 50

During the first months of 1950, the prices of certain food items were lowered in Albania. The prices of dairy products were lowered by 23 percent, eggs and cabbage by 22 percent, and potatoes by 5 percent.

The lowering of the prices is due to the broad measures taken by the government for the mechanization and intensification of Albanian agriculture. The increased yield of agricultural products on state farms is especially significant.

As of 1 April, prices were lowered for industrial products and additional food products available on ration cards and on the free market. On the free market, the price of sugar was lowered by 28.57 percent, macaroni by 20 percent, beans by 34 percent, cigarette paper by 20 percent, cotton fabrics by 20 percent, and beverages by 10 to 22 percent. Prices for 180 different types of goods were lowered by 30 to 40 percent. The prices of marmalade and eggs, which are available on ration cards, were lowered by 20 percent.

Because of the lowering of prices, the purchasing capacity of the population was increased by 300 million lek.

1950 BUDGET LARGER -- Nova Borba, No 5, 25 Mar 50; No 6, 8 Apr 50

At a special meeting of the People's Assembly of Albania held recently, the 1950 budget was adopted. The budget amounts to 7,800,000,000 lek and presupposes a 100,000-lek revenue surplus over expenditures.

In comparison with 1949, the 1950 expenditures will be increased by 46 percent and the revenues by 22 percent. For the completion of the Two-Year Plan and its various components, 2,909,000,000 lek are called for; 316,000,000 lek are provided for the development of the textile industry and power plants, and 121,000,000 lek are allocated for workers' housing. A large sum is also provided for social insurance and the cultural life of workers.

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- 1 -

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